

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /113 W

-----115914 221314Z /42

R 201204Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHC 9391
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIRS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NYK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1083

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, M, LY
SUBJECT: LIBYAN-MAURITANIAN COOPERATION

REF: (A) ALGIERS 1236(NOTAL), (B) TRIPOLI 567(NOTAL),
(C) NOUAKCHOTT 662(NOTAL), (D) NOUAKCHOTT 1008

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH RETURNED
FROM OFFICIAL VISIT TO LIBYA IN A TRIUMPHANT MOOD MANIFESTING
OPTIMISM
ABOUT EXPANDING LIBYAN-MAURITANIAN COOPERATIONHM IN ADDITION TO
CORDIALITY OF WELCOME AND COMMUNIQUE (REPORTED REFTEL B) HE
STATED IN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE THAT CONCRETE PROGRESS HAD BEEN
MADE IN
THE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AREA. PRESIDENT CHARACTERIZED
RESULTS OF VISIT AS VERY IMPORTANT, MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY
LIBYAN AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN FINANCING OF GUELBS PROJECT
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AND KIFFA-NEMA SECTION OF EAST-WEST HIGHWAY; AGREEMENTS
IN THE AREAS OF FISHING, ELECTRICITY, EDUCATION AND TRAINING
AND A COMMUNICATIONS; A LIBYAN REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL 5,000
MAURITANIAN MANUAL LABORERS TO AUGMENT SCARCE LIBYAN MANPOWER
SUPPLY.

2. PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH LEFT NOUAKCHOTT 12 HOURS LATER FOR

STATE VISIT TO NIGERIA. MINISTER FOR PARTY AFFAIRS ABDALLAHI OULD BOYE REMAINED BEHIND IN TRIPOLI FOR FURTHER MEETINGS WITH LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER ABDEL SALAM JETLOUD. END UNCLASSIFIED

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL - COMMENT: SIGNS OF EXPANDING LIBYAN-MAURITANIAN COOPERATION HAVE BEEN NOTED EARLIER (REF C AND D). WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT IS CONCRETE NATURE OF AGREEMENTS THAT RESULTED FROM THIS VISIT AND SIGNS THAT RAPPROCHMENT IS PROVOKING OUTWARD SIGNS OF ALGERIAN DISCONTENT (REF A). (FYI: MAURITANIAN REGIONAL DELEGATE HATTARI OULD BEBAL HAMDI, 5TH REGION, IN NOUAKCHOTT FOR RECENT EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, INFORMED ME THAT UNDER NEW SOCIETE NATIONALE INDUSTRIELLE ET MINIERE (ENIM) STRUCTURE LIBYAN WILL OWN 18PCT OF IORPORATIONS EQUITY. UNDER RESTRUCTURING APPARENTLY APPROVED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BUT NOT YET ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY, SNIM WILL BECOME MIXED CORPORATION WITH 51 PCT EQUITY RETAINED BY GIRM, 18PCT HELD BY GOVERN-

MENT OF LIBYA AND THE REMAINING 31 PCT IN THE HANDS OF ARAB BANKING CONSORTIUMN. (END FYI)

4. GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED DAILY NEWSPAPER CHAAB GLEEFULLY PRAISED NEW PHASE OF DYNAMIC LIBYAN-MAURITANIAN COOPERATION AND BOUMEDIENNE'S DISCOMFITURE WITH DEVELOPMENTS, DESCRIBING MAURITANIAN PROGRESS IN CONSOLIDATING RELATIONS WITH FRATERNAL AFRO-ARAB STATES IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE DOG BARKS... THE CARAVAN PASSES". FROM MAURITANIAN PERSPECTIVE, LIBYA HAS RECOGNIZED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT ITS PREVIOUS CLOSER TIES WITH ALGERIA HAD CONTRIBUTED TO LIBYAN ISOLATION IN ARAB WORLD AND IS NOW SEEKING RAPPROACHMENT WITH BROAD SPECTRUM OF ARAB STATES.SOME MAURITANIANS BELIEVE LIBYA HAS ALWAYS BEEN WILLING TO RECOGNIZE CLOSE SAHARA/MAURITANIAN FLMNATION, BUT FINALLY SUPPORTED POLISARIO WHEN MOROCCO TOOK OVER PART OF FORMER SPANISH SAHARA. MAURITANIANS HOPE THAT INCREASED BILATERAL SUPPORT FROMLIBYA WILL FURTHER ERODE WHAT IT VIEWS AS INCREASINGLY LIMITED SUPPORT POLISARIO RECEPASS FROM "RADICAL" STATES.

5. FYI. MY SPANISH COLLEAGUE, WHO CAN BE ASTUTE, CONSIDERS QUADAFI'S INVITATION TO OULD DADDH A D THE SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC LOVE FEAST TO BE PERHPAS THE MOST SIGNIFICANTLY HOPEFULL DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE OUTSET OF THE SAHARA CONFLICT. END CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NOUAKC01083
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780172-0600
Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780435/aaaabdgr.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 496179aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ALGIERS 1236, 78 TRIPOLI 567, 78 NOUAKCHOTT 662, 78 NOUAKCHOTT 1008
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2903131
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBYAN-MAURITANIAN COOPERATION
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, MR, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/496179aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014